

The Ottawa Free Trader.

Ottawa, Ill., March 26, 1887.

Current Events.

The President on Tuesday appointed the following named gentlemen as members of the Inland Empire Railway Commission, as called for by the Interstate Commerce Act: Thomas M. Cooley, of Michigan, for the term of six years.

Wm. R. Morrison, of Illinois, for the term of five years.

Augustus Schoonmaker, of New York, for the term of four years.

Aldace F. Walker, of Vermont, for the term of three years.

Walter L. Bragg, of Alabama, for the term of two years.

The commission as thus composed, is considered as able one, generally speaking. It will organize at once, must, since the law goes into effect April 1st. Whatever may be the ultimate accomplishments of the law, it certainly marks the beginning of a new era in railroad regulation. The inauguration of a complete revolution in interstate commerce, the force of which will be largely the effect of the rulings of this commission, for the railroads have announced a determination to obey the law, giving it a fair trial, that it may in the future be judged on its merits.

The event of the week in Europe has been the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the birth of the Emperor William, of Germany, which took place on the 22d. The event was celebrated in the most elaborate and hearty manner throughout the entire German empire, and was participated in at Berlin by princes, potentates, monarchs and representatives of every civilized government in the world, while from all parts of the world an avalanche of congratulations showered upon the venerable monarch. For once in many months all Europe seemed at peace with itself and its neighbors. Will it continue?

In Parliament Gladstone has won another famous victory. The government had demanded the immediate passage of the coercion bill, and in the debate on Thursday afternoon Mr. Gladstone on Thursday attacked the bill with such overpowering force that the government has been forced to reconsider. The bill will be placed on its passage, however, before the Easter holidays.

The investigation of the state printing contracts has been in progress all week, and has developed a successful combination by the local printers to gobble the job at the maximum price allowed by law and divide the profits. All the local printers were in the scheme, which was successfully worked, Bokker & Co., the contractors, getting the bulk of the pot, the others getting from \$250 (paid to Rev. Mr. Gurney, late of this city) to \$1,000 each. The profits divided were about \$10,000.

The Chicago drainage scheme has been discussed in committee, but on motion of Senator Plimmet, of this county, until Thursday next, until after the convention to be held in this city next Tuesday afternoon.

John Sherman began his canvass for the presidency, at Nashville, Tenn., on Thursday evening last, by making a speech in the house of representatives, on invitation of the republican members. There was nothing remarkable about the speech. It treated the anti-bellum views of the south in a "you were mistaken, but I forgive you" air, and then branched into an elaborate defence of the tariff legislation and an arraignment of the democratic party for not removing the tax on whisky and tobacco, the failure of the Black education bill, winding up by charging the President with the failure of the river and harbor bill, which Sherman's senate had killed by delaying its passage until too late to be signed by the President.

THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The Committee of the Board of Supervisors, who had been engaged "on and off" for the last nine months in overhauling the various county offices, on Thursday submitted to the Board a report of their doings and discoveries up to date. The report, though decidedly sensational in style and make up, reveals a deplorable condition of affairs in some of the county offices, as well as a most reckless and careless system of supervision and management on the part of the Board of Supervisors. Carelessness and recklessness in the keeping of books and records, allowance of extravagant and shameless charges against the county, and persistent and systematic unlawful appropriation of fees belonging to the county—abuses like these, many of them, according to the representation of the committee, open and glaring, are shown to have been practiced for years, yet have gone unchallenged and unbroken by those whom the law made the especial guardians of the people's interests. Indeed, severe as the arraignment is of some of the county officers, the heaviest censure of the report, whether so intended or not, fall on the Supervisors themselves.

The Probate Clerk's office is shown to have been characterized, not only during the term of the late incumbent, but of his predecessor, by not only a singularly careless and slovenly style of book-keeping and constant illegal appropriation of fees, but what is more serious, on the part of the late incumbent, at least, by a repeated intentional falsification of the record. But how, with such jumbled, mixed up, and tampered-with books and records the committee were able to figure up the Bartels defalcation at precisely \$1,420.37 is one of the things that are hard to find out.

The Committee give a no less fearful than comical array of charges, overcharges, extortions and peculations by the late Sheriff; but except one bill of \$1,496.56, which seems to have been paid twice, there is apparently not one of that sensational array of items that the Supervisors are not as censurable for allowing as the Sheriff was for charging.

In regard to the Treasurer's Office the Committee give abundant evidence of crude and haphazard work. Take, for instance, the charge of appropriating double pay for printers' fees. They say, as an example, that in 1885 the fees for printing the delinquent list amounted to \$737, but that the Treasurer actually collected of these fees but \$652.50, and therefore made the county pay him \$74.40, to make up the amount he had paid the printer. Of course

he did. Was the Treasurer to wait until he had collected the missing \$74.40 on account of forfeitures and abatements before he paid back to himself what he had advanced to the printer?

There seems to be a like indefiniteness and want of clearness in regard to the charges against the Treasurer of not accounting for certain back taxes, interest on delinquent taxes, and other costs. Certain it is that the late Treasurer denies the justice of the Committee's conclusions, and the present Treasurer, who had full charge of the books during his predecessor's term, but who lies now, and has for weeks laid, helplessly prostrated on a bed of sickness, persists in his ability, as soon as his health is sufficiently restored to admit of the exertion, to give a full, complete and satisfactory explanation of every alleged discrepancy; and until he has had this opportunity, we insist that these sweeping charges of delinquency and peculation in the Treasurer's office are premature and the popular judgment in regard to them should be held in abeyance.

While, however, the Committee, in their excitement, may be indulged in the use of severe language in cases where they regard the proof as clear, there is no excuse for the sweeping remark that they find "not only in this (the Sheriff's) office but most of the other offices, that there has been a reckless extravagance, a total disregard of the forms of law, and various unscrupulous, ingenious schemes and devices resorted to whereby he [each officer] might enrich himself at the expense of the taxpayer and unfortunate suitor."

Now, there are at least seven "other offices" in the court house besides the three in regard to which the committee make report, notably those of the County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, County Judge, Probate Judge, Recorder, Surveyor and School Superintendent. One of these offices, that of the County Clerk, for example, the committee have gone through, and, instead of finding any fault with him, they actually gave him credit for paying some \$12 more fees to the county than he owed it, while they have not as yet reported a syllable to indicate crookedness whatever in the others. The five "other offices" have thus far wholly escaped their attention, yet some of them must be included in "most of the other offices" against which the committee utter their sweeping censure.

Nor is the committee fair in their treatment of the loans of \$20,000 and \$15,000, referred to in their report. It may appear the truth; but the real truth is suppressed. These sums, a total of \$35,000, formed a part of the sum due the First National Bank in March, 1884, moneys advanced to pay building accounts. To pay all then due the bank would have created an embarrassment further on in the year. To provide against this, and to insure the possession of funds in Sept. and to pay current expenses, the finance committee asked the bank to carry these \$35,000, which was agreed to, the notes to be renewed from time to time until the county could pay without running out of money. When the Marine and other N. Y. banks went by the board, in 1884, Mr. Raymond, in order to protect the county against a possible loss by a bank failure, began to reduce his balance, and paid these notes before they became due. When the scare was over, he took back to the bank, July 17, '84, and Aug. 9, '84, the uncanceled notes and took a credit for them—renewed them, at the times he would have renewed them had they remained in the bank, just as the finance committee had expected him to do, when, in March, the arrangement for carrying the debt was made. By this means the treasury had money at the Sept. 1884 session to meet bills audited, to pay which the committee had in March thus provided to a certainty the money. The whole transaction was strictly a development of the finance committee's plan, save that, to guard against a possible loss by breaking banks, Mr. Raymond, by at one time paying them, had attempted to interpose a guard against possible loss. That these so-called "loans" were but renewals, (fully contemplated when the arrangement was made in March) and not original transactions, the books of the First National Bank will show, if any one will be at the trouble to enquire, although the committee have taken pains not to say so in their report, as we think they should have done.

THE SUPERVISORSHIP AGAIN.

THE FREE TRADER, exercising without fee or hope of reward, its right to support the candidacy of John F. Reed as against that of William J. Dwyer for the position of supervisor of the township of Ottawa at the ensuing election, has been derided by the Ottawa Journal, the La Salle county Herald and the Streator Independent Times, three eminently high-toned formulators of public opinion, edited by three political purists—Lester A. Rose, Carl Zwanzig and David LeRoy—as being the organ of ringsters and corruptionists. Seconding the efforts of these gentlemen is the distinguished statesman from Earl, who, not content with representing the people of Earl, persists in spreading his genius over the whole of La Salle county, and attempting to dictate who shall be elected in this town and who shall be defeated in that.

THE FREE TRADER can but repeat that it believes Mr. Reed ought to be elected, and that the best interests of the town will be subserved by his retention in his present position.

Mr. Dwyer does not give a satisfactory explanation of his candidacy by saying he desires to pursue the investigation, which, by the way, has come to an end, as far as the committee of which he was a member is concerned. Supposing the investigation should again be taken up by the board,

Mr. Dwyer as assistant could have gone on with it if he so desired. In short, Mr. Dwyer as assistant has every right that Mr. Reed as supervisor has, except to participate in the deliberations of the town board of auditors and to issue orders for those who are town charges—orders for groceries, coal, and such necessities as the supervisor is empowered to give the town poor. The supervisor only can issue such orders, the assistant having no right to do so, under a provision of the board. Upon the board the assistant supervisor has every right that the supervisor has. He is just as potential for good; and if Mr. Dwyer's desire is sincere, to simply promote the public good, he would be as willing to serve as assistant as he is anxious to serve as supervisor.

His present attitude is one that places him in an embarrassing position before the public. In the eye of the public he is not sincere in the reason given for his wish to occupy Mr. Reed's place. There is back of this reason some other, and that other is most likely to be found in the fact that in the course of a year the supervisor of Ottawa, through the power delegated to him and not delegated to the assistant, issues to the poor, for groceries and other necessities, orders amounting in value to a good many hundreds of dollars. A supervisor who conducts a grocery store is very likely to fill the orders which he issues; and though it is all legitimate enough, it is a little rough on the other grocers.

Mr. Dwyer conducts a grocery store, and this fact, coupled with the further one that in respect to orders the supervisor has all the power and the assistant none at all, furnishes a more reasonable solution of his candidacy for the first place and his unwillingness to accept the second, than the one given by Mr. Rose, Mr. Zwanzig and Dr. LeRoy.

HERE'S A PRETTY MESS.

The investigation committee's report on county officers' accounts was presented to the Board this week. It isn't pleasant reading, by any means, now the facts are out, and the truth, as the committee view it, is known. The surprising thing is that all this could have happened, with a Board of 40 odd members calmly sitting in deliberation over these identical accounts twice a year during all the time these irregularities were going on.

But the spectacle in this county is not one peculiar to La Salle county. In Cook county a similar scene has been enacted, and promises to end with a red fire tableau showing the boddies on their way to Joliet. In McDonough and in Vermillion counties investigating committees have shown their principals cases almost exactly identical with those exhibited to the taxpayers of La Salle county.

In McDonough county political enmity induced the republicans to attack the county clerk, and found his accounts out of balance by \$1,600. Then the democrats retaliated, finding the five sheriffs next past had retired from office short in sums ranging from \$190 to \$1,320 each. In Vermillion county the retiring sheriff is reported short by the committee to the amount of \$2,812.

In both these cases the sheriffs have improved their opportunities to run livery stables for which the county paid a handsome profit to the owner. The same tactics employed by Sheriff Milligan to earn money from his horse flesh were employed in Vermillion and McDonough counties, with apparently equal success. The snap of a boarding house run at \$3.50 per head, all expenses, save provisions, paid, and no bad debts to collect, with an addendum of a repair tailor shop, materials found, does not, however, appear to have fallen to the lot of the perspiring sheriffs at Danville or Macomb; but in both those cases, as in this county, all fees received from the State for conveyance of prisoners to the penitentiary and reform school were pocketed by the sheriffs as "perquisites," believing they were entitled to it independent of their salaries.

Here, there appears, therefore, a conflict of opinion on the question whether these fees belong to the sheriff or the county which pays for his time while he earns them. The affirmative of the question is held by sheriffs generally, while lawyers as a rule hold that they belong to the account of gross earnings of the office, and as such must be reported to the county in the semi-annual statement.

However, that will be settled hereafter. All we wish to remark is that our friends of the "cellar organ" and those others who are endeavoring to glorify themselves in the midst of this mess are but following in the tracks that other counties have beaten; and that La Salle county can't lay claims to the possession of a splendid sensation peculiarly her own no matter how loudly the music plays or brilliant the colored lights or how flatteringly large the bill of expense!

From Waltham.

WALTHAM, March 23, 1887.—The roads are in very fine travelling condition, and we are having very pleasant weather at present.

The farmers are all busy preparing for their spring work.

David Gamble is seen going westward quite frequently of late.

A La Salle policeman was seen in this neighborhood on Sunday last.

Juniole Allen is down with the measles. Royal Wilson was kicked on the ankle by his driving horse one day last week at Mendota. As he went in to hitch him up he told him to get over, and as he did not, he gave him a kick and the horse kicked him in return. Now he goes on crutches.

Your correspondent and many others are much pleased to hear that Miss Josie Keating has accepted the position as teacher in district No. 1 for a term of nine months. Her school will begin the first Monday in April, and we are certain she will give as good satisfaction with the school in the future as she did in the past.

THE COUNTY LEGISLATORS.

On a Slumbering Volcano.

The Board of Supervisors of this county began their March term this year under peculiar circumstances. More important and exciting questions have never before presented themselves before any previous meeting of this body than loomed up before this session with appalling aspect. The reputations of grey-haired men, who for half a century had stood unblemished, had been fiercely assailed. Young men, whose parents had been among the early settlers, always noted as a class for their ironlike integrity of character, were said to be defaulters. Either those trusted public servants, who had helped to make the county itself, who have been a lifetime engaged in building it up, who had handled public money till it amounted to millions, had been traduced by personal hatred, partisan malice, or blood-mingled through infamous, cold-blooded, sensational journalism, or they had been revealed as whited sepulchres! The public, overwhelmed with astonishment, gave way to indignation when the alleged "boddies" were discovered—were very indignant; but as from time to time these reports disagreed and contradicted each other, and the calm, untroubled fronts of the supposed culprits, changed to a trial before condemnation. This is the sentiment of the people generally, but individuals differ as greatly; so all shades of opinion prevail, from "kick 'em out and try 'em afterwards" to forgiveness, accepting all on trust, or "what difference will it make in a hundred years from now?" The members of the board represented all the shades of opinion between the extremes, and each supervisor appeared last Monday filled to the bursting point with schemes of vengeance, law, prosecution, moderation, compromise, mercy, or generosity, according to his individual make-up, and every mother's son of them contained a speech which was just boiling over and escaping as from an overcharged steam chest, in spite of all efforts. They bowed with stately politeness; and the chairman wielded his gavel as if it were the symbol of oratory. They never looked half so wise before, nor half so dangerous. A sort of a fierce calm pervaded the room. Every one was full of fire and ready to jump into the "steedily imminent breach" as soon as the speaker should open wide enough. As the members passed each other there was a ferocious look about them, suggesting, "Beware! don't touch me; I'm loaded." They seemed to walk upon the floor as in a crater, over a mass of burning, blistering, scorching, seething, red-hot lava. An angry word, a sharp look, a biting retort, an "I told you so," would have produced an "You're another," and then—annihilation! But somehow they kept clear of the dynamic package of official wrongdoing, else the court house would have been blown skyward. Yet they did get into a pretty little skirmish on a side issue the very first afternoon.

Chairman Lewis rapped for order at 2:30 p. m., and all of the 45 members answered to their names, excepting Dresser, Grandson, Lauf, McIntyre, O'Loughlin, Phillips and Sawyer, the latter absent as a missionary at Springfield, where the heathen rage in another shape. He should have remained here to make Rome howl. The minutes of the special session were read. The chair wanted them approved. Eades said, "No; they don't express what the committee to negotiate the county bonds understood they did. This committee went on to negotiate the bonds, but the chairman (Lewis) refused to let us handle them. He said he and the clerk must execute them and then turn them over to the county treasury, and they did so, notwithstanding in order to raise the money we actually had to get them, take them to Chicago, get the money, and deposit it in the county treasury."

Lewis called Green to the chair, and explained: "The records are in accordance with the facts; but I held that the board could not appoint any of its members to handle county money, and I knew it when I went to Chicago with the committee to get the money."

Eades: "Then the committee had no power to negotiate bonds?"

Lewis: "Well—yes, to negotiate, but not to handle them. That was the treasurer's duty."

Norton: "When did the treasurer get the right to this money—before it was negotiated or when the money came to his hands?"

Lewis: "That's a question; I have not seen the law."

Norton: "I can show it to you."

Fisher: "There were two resolutions. Fisher was made one of the committee to borrow this money, but he could not go to Chicago, and Finlen was substituted."

Eades: "The fact is, the treasurer's bondsman would not let him take them to Chicago, but insisted they should be sent by express; and that would have cost \$120 to \$140."

Fisher corroborated Eades, and added that Hoffman was sick, and there was no way but for the committee to take the bonds, go to Chicago and get the money. We had to deliver them on a certain day, or all would have stopped."

Griffin thought it a waste of time. The committee had done what was proper, and their report should be approved, and it was approved.

Fisher offered a resolution, that the committee to settle with county officers settle with none of them who have not kept their books according to law and the instructions of this board. He stated that some of the officers newly elected defy the board. There was a resolution at the last September session forbidding deputy clerks to hold clerical jobs outside of the court house. Kelly, the deputy probate clerk, was then and still is city clerk of Ottawa. We ought to make our resolutions mean something. The officers must be made to respect them. The county records in this office are behind, because the deputy is doing other business outside. The resolution of September was read and Fisher's resolution adopted.

McLaughlin wanted to know "if we have a county treasurer."

Lewis gave it up.

McLaughlin wanted to know if the board hasn't power to impeach a county officer. "I understand the treasurer has abdicated in favor of his bondsmen."

Lewis: "Hoffman still lives."

Griffin reported that the county asylum had been insured for \$17,500, at 3 per cent for 5 years, in 7 companies, and wanted the policies paid. Allowed.

Adjourned till Tuesday morning.

On Tuesday morning the sun having crossed the spring line, fair weather covered all outdoors, and some of it got into the supervisors' room, consequently the members came up in a rather smiling disposition. The assessor of Streator having by error assessed H. Muller \$1,560, for property worth \$500, the board knocked off the extra \$1,060. Franklin O. Reed, of Troy Grove, having enlisted with the idea of getting besides a lot of glory, \$100 bounty offered by La Salle county, in 1862, and not having got the money wants it. Referred.

Norton offered a resolution reciting that "It is believed 50 cents per day is too much

for prisoners' diet, and that the board have the right to fix the pay at any time; the board should do so now, and put the sum at present for 30 cents per day, \$2.10 per week for food, washing, hair cutting, mending, shaving and cutting toe nails. Griffin wanted to know if this isn't in direct conflict with a resolution of last September, fixing it at 50 cents a meal? We ought to rescind that, but can we touch it anyway. It is law. It would be fair to him, we have cut down his salary before, very much, and this is to reduce it more. He agreed that the previous wash bills of the last sheriff were too high, but the 50-cent resolution of September includes washing and mending.

Reed of Ottawa, opposed it. He thought the board cannot go back on its contract of last fall. It is good for Morrissey's term.

Norton: I have heard the opinion of State's Attorney Mooney, on the subject. Read it. It recites the statute and a case in the 95 Ills. Supreme Court reports. The per diem of the prisoners board is no part of the sheriff's salary. It can be fixed from time to time, as the board thinks best. The cost, said Norton, of prisoners diet, depends upon the market, and varies from month to month. There are boarding schools all over the country that never pretend to charge more than \$2.10 per week, and furnish everything, while here, the county supplies nearly everything. If the sheriff won't accept a reasonable price, we may let the contract, as they do in Chicago. I object to paying \$4,000 for this thing. It is outrageous and everyone knows it. Because we have paid this exorbitant sum in the past, is no reason why we should do so in the future, but a good reason why we should not pay it. Eades thought it should be referred to a committee, and he thought it out of order because it seeks to bind the board in future, but the chairman decided the point of order weak, but to refer was in order.

Norton said to refer is to try to kill the resolution and to dodge the vote as well as to keep out of the record.

Fisher said the 50-cent resolution was put in to help the sheriff out. His salary had been cut down. The sheriff's traveling expenses was allowed \$2,300, now it is \$1,500, and so on.

Norton ridiculed this idea. If it cost more to clothe and feed the 18 men in jail than it did the 120 in the county asylum, as it did formerly, should we continue it? There is no reason or sense in such an argument. If the former sheriff made \$60,000, he made too much, and it would be right to hold the present one to \$40,000; but it is monstrous to think that the sheriff ought to make double on every article he buys for the county. To say that his salary has been cut down is not true. It is \$2,000 a year, the same as it has been all along. The sheriff is not to be paid by enormous prices for perquisites. Griffin charged Norton with being a "mind reader," for he pretends to give the very reasons that actuated the committee in fixing the 50-cent fee for the dieting of prisoners. The resolution and attorneys' opinion were referred to the court house and jail committee by 22 to 15.

The board came together rather slowly after dinner, and, of course, good naturedly and sleepily, but were aroused a little when Fischer and Norton took a tilt at the prisoners' feed bill. Fischer reported that the committee would stand by the 50-cent resolution of September. Norton said it was mean—a clean case of dodging a vote on his resolution. The committee dare not go on record, so the committee had arranged it. Fischer has placed himself so as not to be caught on the record by voting squarely on the resolution. Fischer accused Norton of mind reading, and declared he was willing to vote "no" on Norton's resolution. The report was adopted, says 26, says 12.

Norton moved that his resolution be spread on the record. Fischer wanted it done in red ink. The chair ruled the report of the committee just adopted did not dispose of Norton's resolution, and that it was still before the house.

Fischer: "I thought the report of the committee killed the resolution."

Norton: "That was evidently the intention."

Fischer: "And a very good intention, too." [Laughter.]

After a general discussion of the parliamentary question and any amount of mud developed, Bubeck moved to table, and it was done, says 22, says 15.

An interesting feature of the afternoon's proceedings was a bill by Sheriff Morrissey for traveling expenses, taking prisoners to the penitentiary, insane asylum, &c. The committee brought him to a sense of his position with a bang. He had been voted \$1,500 traveling expenses at the beginning of his term. He charged for omnibus, railroad and other expenses of taking convicts to the penitentiary. The state pays all these things and not the county. To have allowed these bills would have been to give away all pretense of reform by the board. They told him when he wanted traveling expenses to draw from his \$1,500 fund, commencing with one-half now. Adopted.

The board met at 8 o'clock on Wednesday morning, and they came up in a drowsy condition, perhaps because many of them are not accustomed to city ways of being up nights. They met early for the purpose of doing a vast amount of business, which they were expected to have from an important committee, but the committee failed to get there. Notwithstanding Fischer wanted to paint the old records red with Norton's resolutions on prisoners' grub the day previous, the board was not disturbed by any signs of gore; the clerk read the minutes, no brick was fired at him, and the proceedings opened "just lovely."

Mr. Stevenson, from the abatement committee, found that Assessor Lockwood, of Ottawa, had assessed C. J. Curyea's property 40 per cent too high, and that the same should be reduced; also, that J. C. Duryea, of Streator, was in the same predicament, and his taxes ought to be one-third less. As a petition of Mr. Vance, of Farm Ridge, they found that he had paid on property he did not own and allowed his own lands to be sold for taxes. He asks that the redemption money he paid to get the latter back (\$84.14) be refunded. As he is to blame for his own carelessness in not knowing the description of his own property, and the county is not responsible for his ignorance, he should sustain his own loss. Adopted.

Hickok, from the committee on abatements, reported, allowing sundry bills for the use of town halls on last election day, in all \$379.50. Adopted.

There being nothing else to do, the board took a rest till 1:30 p. m.

them by means of the report of the investigating committee. It was noticed that Chairman Lewis wore a peculiar "now-or-never" look, while Norton was defiant, and Fisher fierce.

The clerk read a petition from Jennie R. Maeder, assignee of Wm. C. Moore of a note for \$5,000 against La Salle county, signed by E. C. Lewis, chairman of the board, on which interest is due since January 1, 1886, and she wanted the interest.

Lewis explained that this note was not mentioned in the report of the majority of the county bond committee, but was indicated in his minority report. He stated that there is another \$5,000 note out, besides one for \$1,000, signed by him last July.

Norton: "Did the county have the benefit of the \$1,000 note of July last?"

Lewis: "I don't know."

Norton: "The books don't show that it has ever been entered on the treasurer's books."

Fisher wanted it to go to the committee to settle with county officers.

Norton preferred the finance committee; also, that the two other notes go to the same committee.

Eades: "These notes are all that are supposed to be out. The treasurer hasn't reported these notes. It was stated that \$1,000 of this sum never was paid into the treasury. That's why we reported the names of such as we thought ought to be paid, so as to cut off such as hadn't been paid to the treasury. It was claimed that during the life of this board we should pay all legal notes out." He thought "it should go to the present committee of investigation."

Fisher thought so too. "The treasurer reported certain notes out at last settlement, but others have turned up. The investigation committee know more about it than any member of the board. We were told we owed \$75,000. This committee have spent three months to find what we owed. The treasurer then said we owed \$59,000, and interest. We have paid them several hundred dollars to look up this subject, and they are supposed to be posted. Besides, I have never seen a correct report from the finance committee. They have always reported a balance, but did not know where it came from."

Lewis called McIntyre to the chair. Lewis said: "This is a matter in which I have been assailed by the public press. I signed those notes. Everyone asks why I didn't sign the majority report? I didn't sign it because it wasn't true. It was well known then it wasn't correct. I fought Hoffman on it. He was sick and couldn't appear. That note was not in the majority report. If there is any attempt of repudiation through the board, it is a question of honor. I will fight alone and go down, if need be, with whatever odium there may be attached to it. I want to pay every honest debt the county owes. It is not a question of the treasurer's mistake, but how much do we owe? I am informed that this note has never been passed to the credit of the county. I supposed it was merely a failure to transfer it. This county owed \$20,000 at First National Bank of Ottawa, also \$10,000 county orders at the bank of Mendota. We owed \$30,000 to the City National Bank of Ottawa. Mr. Raymond thought it was \$3,500, and Allen wanted to be paid out of first tax levy. I told Raymond if we paid Allen we must pay Bowen. That made \$85,000, so he (Raymond) said we couldn't run the county without borrowing more. I know nothing of this, except in July the \$1,000 note was signed by me. A man named Woodcock offered to lend \$1,400 to the county. Don't know if he paid the money or not. The Woodcock note was on the statement, but not the Moore note. I have doubt Woodcock paid the money. Raymond's bondsmen must pay this \$1,000, and they will and are willing. I signed the note under instructions of the board and don't think it honorable in the board to repudiate it. As to minors' money, Martin Flaherty deposited money in the treasurer's office for heirs. Raymond paid that money out for the county's business, and he must be authorized to pay it to the minors from the general fund. I want the people to know if the county will repudiate or not. The committee of investigation are about ready to report. There is no reason why they should take this extra load; they have enough now. As to integrity of my conduct in this, I challenge any one to question me. I trusted Raymond and Hoffman implicitly. I thought the note I signed was the renewal of the Woodcock note. I have no respect for questions of legality here; it is a debt of honor."

Fischer: "Lewis attacks the integrity of the majority of the committee."

Lewis: "If he says so, he says what I did not say."

Fischer: "The first word you said was that the report of the majority was not true."

Lewis: "Yes, that's true."

Fischer said the committee had decided not to do anything about these bonds until we learned how many and what amounts were out. We sent word down to Hoffman for the books, he sent us to Raymond; Raymond sent us back, &c. At last Hoffman sent up that report, and we published it. We were guilty of no lie; we published what he gave us. He said \$75,000 was the amount. He said an old building committee order was out, which had not been included in his report. We published what was given us. The county treasurer and chairman published a different report. In reply we asked the treasurer, "Why did you sign that first report?" He said: "I couldn't help it; you must consider my condition." He said: "You know I have been long acquainted with Mr. Lewis." Raymond thought the debt to the bank was more than it was. Fischer criticised the way of keeping books. He said he didn't charge Lewis with intentional wrongdoing, but he has been a tool of by some one. He understood Lewis took Woodcock to the treasurer's office and borrowed \$1,000. Woodcock holds a note, and La Salle county is responsible for its payment. Fischer said he would be the last man to repudiate, but he didn't want a new committee to settle. Let the present committee look into it. If we got the money, I say it; if not, not. The minors' fund (\$2,000) is used; when they come, let us pay them; but, in the first place, let us see if this money was paid in and has been paid out. But before we pay it let us see if the general fund was increased that much. We have an investigating committee working on it, and a grand jury on it; let's not be too premature.

Gunn: "If the county has never had any money for this note we don't owe it. We don't know if there are not more to start up like spectators. Let's hold on. Let any one commence suit against the county, and we shall know all about it. That's the only way. Let them sue their notes or pretended claims. We are not repudiating a debt bill we have created it. It was Lewis' business to know if his acts were legal when he borrowed the money, and if not legal we have not got to pay it. The note was given for money to pay the Mendota bank, it is said; and yet we have over \$14,000 in December. It was not necessary or reasonable to borrow the \$1,000 to pay \$10,000. I have been told that Bowen of the Mendota bank was written by Lewis to collect his \$10,000. We paid \$24,600 during this time, and had money all the time. Lewis states he bet